



NEWS UPDATE

preschool practitioners

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Comment

This issue focuses on a new Oxfam resource 'Our world of water' for young children. It is full of colourful pictures which highlight just how important water is in our everyday life – from drinking, to washing, to having fun. It emphasises the significance of clean water for good health. It encourages children to value something which we very often take for granted. The book follows several children from a variety of environments – urban, rural, hot, cold – to see how they get their water and where they obtain it from. It encourages children to question what they do in the time others spend fetching and carrying water. And although we are surrounded by water, from a global perspective, only 1% of the water we see is available for us to use to meet our *needs*. This book certainly stimulates children to *ask questions* and to develop *a sense of wonder about the world*.

There are other resources available for loan too on a water theme. *Focus on Stories* gives strategies for using favourite stories to raise issues and encourage thinking and questioning. *First Steps to Rights*, a pack for 4 – 7 year olds, examines all the basics for survival, including water so that young children can learn to identify their *needs* and separate them from their *wants*. *Oxfam Primary Topic Posters – Water* shares ideas for using photographs to stimulate talking and to acquire information.

NEW RESOURCE CATALOGUES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Recent Events

At **Glenurquhart Childcare Centre** in November, to further their *Food* theme, the children used coloured sticky dots to identify the fruit and vegetables on sale in an Indian market that are also available here. They saw the *similarities* there are globally between the food we all eat. Then unpacking a bag of oranges, bananas, apples, tea, rice, coffee and chocolate they were able to see the *interdependent* nature of the world we live in. Not much of that could we grow for ourselves! They did some matching and sorting of pictures about bananas until they were able to sequence the story – from tree to supermarket shelf! *Go Bananas* is a great pack for photos. The children joined in so well with the activities. The staff saw the links between the activities and a Curriculum for Excellence. .

At **Dingwall Children's Nursery** on 25th September, at **Cauldeen Primary Nursery** on 29th October, at **Speanbridge Primary Nursery** on 25th November and at **Glenurquhart Childcare Centre** on 27th November staff experimented with transferrable activities to bring a global approach to themes in the nursery without it being an 'extra' or an 'add-on' in the form of a festival. The whole emphasis was on how to *include* other cultures and societies in a *positive* way, avoiding *generalisations* that put people into stereotypical boxes and highlighting the *similarities* between children worldwide rather than accentuating the differences. All the activities encourage children to work *cooperatively*, *talk and listen* to each other and thus boost their *self-esteem* while delivering many of the key aspects of the Curriculum Framework.

The website has been overhauled. Do take a look
www.globaldimension.highlandschools.org.uk

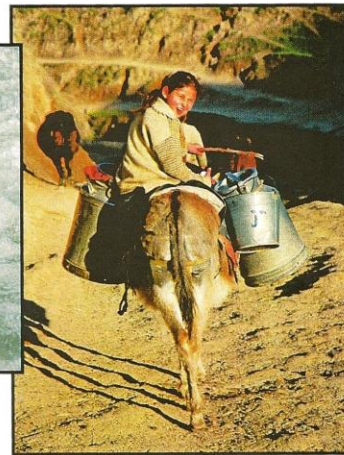
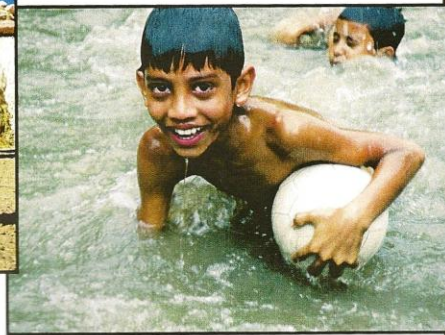
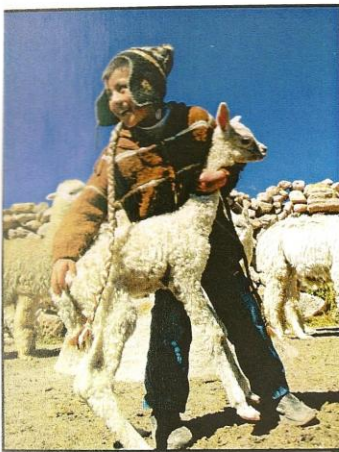
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For young
children

Make links to the 4
capacities of a
Curriculum for
Excellence

Our World of Water



What does the framework say?


- Values and attitudes are communicated to children by what staff say and do....
- Diversity...enriches learning experiences
- Develop positive attitudes towards others....
- Books, pictures, jigsaws, stories... should be selected to show positive images of people of different races and cultures

Beatrice Hollyer

Foreword by Zadie Smith

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FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

in association with  Oxfam

What aspects of the curriculum framework does this book address?
Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Develop a sense of wonder about the world
- Ask questions ...
- Develop their powers of observation..
- Become aware of everyday uses of technology ...

*Communication and Language
Emotional, Personal and Social
Development*